

Message Text

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64

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 AID-20 PC-04 MC-02 OMB-01 NEA-10

SY-10 USSS-00 DOTE-00 OPR-02 OC-06 CCO-00 A-01 SCA-01

NIC-01 FBIE-00 SCS-03 CU-04 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-10

PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 AGR-20 HEW-08 RSR-01 /201 W

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P R 162043Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5205

INFO DOD/DIA

USCINCSO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CI, PINT, PINS, MILI, ELAB

SUBJ: TRUCKERS REJECT GOVT ULTIMATUM

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

REF: SANTIAGO 3626

1. SUMMARY. TRUCKERS HAVE REJECTED GOVT ORDER TO END STRIKE IN 24 HOURS OR FACE MILITARY REQUISITION OF TRUCKS. MERCHANTS THREATEN TO STRIKE IF FORCE USED AGAINST TRUCKERS, AND GUILDS IN VARIOUS SOUTHERN PROVINCES HAVE ANNOUNCED STRIKES TO START TOMMORROW. MINOR TERRORIST INCIDENTS CONTINUE. END SUMMARY.

2. MILITARY INTERVENTORS IN TRUCK STRIKE MET WITH STRIKE LEADERS AUG 15, BUT TRUCKERS ANNOUNCED THEY REJECTED GOVT'S 24-HOUR "ULTIMATUM" (WHICH EXPIRES LATE THIS AFTERNOON) TO RESUME WORK AND CLAIMED THEY WOULD CONTINUE STRIKE "TO THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BITTER END." LAND TRANSPORT CONFEDERATION PRES. JUAN JARA

HELD JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE WITH MERCHANTS CHIEF RAFAEL CUMSILLE TO WARN THAT STORES WOULD CLOSE IF ANY ATTEMPT WERE MADE TO REQUISITION TRUCKS FORCEFULLY. INTERMINISTERIAL "OPERATIONS COMMAND" HELD TWO-HOUR SESSION TO CONSIDER SITUATION, AFTER WHICH MINDEFENSE GEN. CARLOS PRATS STRESSED TO REPORTERS THE SERIOUS DAMAGE IS CAUSING IN DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD-STUFFS, FUELS, AND SEEDS FOR APPROACHING SPRING PLANTING SEASON. CUT PRES. LUIS FIGUEROA, WHO PARTICIPATED IN MEETING, ANNOUNCED CUT WILL HOLD SPECIAL MEETING OF NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL LEADERS TO CONSIDER ANTI-STRIKE MEASURES. TRUCKERS WIVES, MEANWHILE, SEIZED FOUR RADIO STATIONS (ONE EACH IN SANTIAGO, MELIPILLA, SAN FERNANDO, AND TALCA) AND BROADCAST BARRAGE OF STATEMENTS BACKING STRIKE AND URGING STRIKERS TO REMAIN FIRM. SANTIAGO INTENDENTE JULIO STUARDO DENIED ARREST ORDERS HAD BEEN ISSUED FOR VILARIN AND OTHER STRIKE LEADERS.

3. SANTIAGO BUS SITUATION REMAINS CONFUSED, WITH SOME PRIVATE BUSES STILL OPERATING. DISSIDENT FACTION OF BUS DRIVERS UNION ALLEGEDLY CONTROLLING SEVEN LINES OUT OF SOME FORTY DENOUNCED DRIVERS STRIKE AND PLEDGED TO STAY ON JOB. SIMILAR STATEMENT ISSUED BY TAXIBUS DRIVERS UNION, BUT OWNERS ON THESE LINES HAVE WITHDRAWN NEARLY ALL VEHICLES FROM OPERATION. UNITED GUILD COMMANDS IN FIVE SOUTHERN PROVINCES ANNOUNCED "INDEFINITE" STRIKE STARTING TOMORROW INCLUDING SHOPKEEPERS AND PROFESSIONALS. ALL MAJOR GUILDS IN O'HIGGINS PROVINCE ALSO ANNOUNCED ANOTHER 24-HOUR STRIKE FOR TODAY IN A REPEAT PERFORMANCE OF THEIR ONE-DAY STRIKE AUG 13. NATIONAL MEDICAL ASSN. IS SURVEYING MEMBERSHIP ABOUT A POSSIBLE NATIONWIDE DOCTORS STRIKE WHICH COULD EASILY INCLUDE DENTISTS, NURSES, AND OTHER HEALTH PROFESSIONALS.

4. MOST NOTABLE RECENT TERRORIST INCIDENTS WERE THREE MORE DYNAMITE BOMBS IN TALCA, A DYNAMITE EXPLOSION AT ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION TOWER IN PUERTO MONTT, AND ROBBERY OF SANTIAGO GAS STATIONS BY SEVEN PERSONS REPORTEDLY DRESSED IN ARMY UNIFORMS. INVESTIGATIONS DEPT RAIDED TWO HOMES OF ALLEGED PATRIA Y LIBERTAD MEMBERS IN SANTIAGO'S BARRIO ALTO AND FOUND, ACCORDING TO PRO-GOVT PRESS, "VERITABLE ARSENALS." ALL MORNING PAPERS TODAY REPORT DISCOVERY OF EXPLOSIVE DEVICES AT HOMES OF THREE U.S. EMBASSY OFFICERS (SANTIAGO 3624).
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5. NATIONAL PARTY ISSUED STATEMENT REAFFIRMING ITS CLAIM THAT ALLENDE GOVT IS "ILLEGITIMATE." STATEMENT ALSO DECRIED ALLEGED MARXIST INFILTRATION INTO ARMED FORCES. COMMUNIST EL SIGLO DEVOTED BETTER PART OF FRONT PAGE TO SLASHING ATTACK ON FORMER PRES EDUARDO FREI, USING AUG 14 INTERVIEW WITH EL MERCURIO AS POINT OF DEPARTURE. SOCIALISTS ANNOUNCED A SPECIAL PARTY MEETING TODAY AND TOMORROW TO ANALYZE POLITICAL SITUATION.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SANTIA03637
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SANTIAGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730834/aaaaaymx.tel
Line Count: 116
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: SANTIAGO 3626
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31-Oct-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <31-Oct-2001 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRUCKERS REJECT GOVT ULTIMATUM USCINCSO FOR POLAD
TAGS: PINT, PINS, MILI, ELAB, CI
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005